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Maritime Strategy Update – Communicating and Developing the Details

"The Navy Strategic Plan represents the next evolutionary step in a larger Navy effort to place strategy ahead of the budgeting process and ultimately implement a recurring strategic planning process that is adaptable to a range of alternative futures."

-- Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

The launch of the Maritime Strategy in October 2007 and CNO testimony in December was only the beginning of an enduring effort in communication and the beginning of translating the strategy into action. In the near future, the Navy will describe how the strategy will be implemented and continue to communicate the vision and value of Seapower communities across the United States during the "Conversations with the Country" program.

Implementing the Maritime Strategy with a Family of Documents

December's CNO testimony alluded to a series of documents which expand on the new Maritime Strategy. In the coming few months, the Navy will finalize the tactics and resources needed to execute the new vision and strategy.

- The **Navy Strategic Plan (NSP)** is a classified document which translates the six core capabilities of the unclassified Maritime Strategy into guidance for Navy planners and programmers to ensure the Navy program reflects CNO's priorities. CNO signed the NSP for development of Program Operation Memorandum 2010 (POM-10) November 5, 2007.
- The NSP ensures the Navy balances requirements to build the future force, maintain warfighting readiness and develop and support our Sailors and Navy civilians.
- The NSP also provides global and regional strategic context to guide the Navy's investment decisions during development of the budget submission in the current resource-constrained environment. It serves as the strategic link to the forthcoming unclassified Naval Operations Concept.
- The **Naval Operations Concept (NOC)** for 2008 will describe how the joint Navy/Marine Corps team operates. It will address tactics and provides the "commander's intent" to guide the creativity of our joint warfighters as they operate forward. The NOC will also explain how resources are used and applied.

Communicating the Maritime Strategy with Conversations with the Country

The Sea Services began the next round of national outreach events called Conversations with the Country (CWC). These are designed to bring together a wide cross-section of American society to openly discuss the future roles of the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard in protecting the homeland and to educate regional audiences of the importance of U.S. seapower to our nation's security and prosperity. Today, CWC is in Houston and Rice University. Upcoming cities include Portland (OR), Denver, Los Angeles and Raleigh.

Key Messages

- This family of documents, along with the Navy Program, translates the Maritime Strategy into action and is how the Navy builds the future force.
- The 2007 NSP, released every two years, marks the second installment in a repeatable strategic planning process for the Navy.
- The NSP links the Maritime Strategy with the Naval Operations Concept for 2008, which will describe how the Navy-Marine Corps team fights and operates.

Facts & Figures

- The first CWC after launch of the Maritime Strategy was held in Miami in November, 2007.
- CWC Miami had nearly 200 participants, from all parts of academia, business and the general public over two days.
- The NSP is available on the SIPRnet at <http://clsobdom03.cno.navy.smil.mil/noc>.
- The New Maritime Strategy, "*A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower*," is available at www.navy.mil/maritime/.